

# DIVISIONAL LEVEL CONSULTATION ON

## MVA ACT, 2019

### Effective Implementation, Challenges and Way Forward

30 NOVEMBER, 2021  
DHOLPUR, RAJASTHAN

### Background

CUTS International organised a divisional level consultation at Dholpur, Rajasthan, in association with Samajik Vikas Samiti, Dholpur, on November 30, 2021. More than 45 participants participated in the consultation from various districts of Rajasthan; Bharatpur, Karuli and Dholpur. The consultation's main objective was to activate the District Road Safety Committee and make people aware of the key provisions of the MVA Act. 2019. The MVA Act, 2019 offers a huge opportunity to reduce road accidents, fatalities, and injuries through effective enforcement, but it also poses several challenges. These challenges could be effective enforcement, effective road safety management, and institution strengthening at the district level.

### Proceedings



## Inaugural Session

In his opening address, **Rakesh Parmar**, President, Samajik Vikas Samiti, Dholpur, welcomed all the guest speakers and participants, put forward the consultation agenda, and set the context. He also shared the main objective of the consultation and local issues of Dholpur.



**Madhu Sudan Sharma**, Senior Programme Officer, CUTS, welcomed dignitaries and participants who came from various blocks of Dholpur, Bharatpur, and Karauli districts. He said that CUTS and its partner invited District Collector, SP Police, District Head of Trauma Care and Chief Engineer of PWD..

He spoke about the need of overhauling or amending the old road safety laws and said that since the road scenario on the ground is completely changed due to good quality highways and other roads, improvised versions of motor and power engine vehicles, increased rate of traffic and vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists, etc. He also referred to the history of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989. Both were amended entirely in the MVA Act, 2019 and its corresponding rules, 2020 and 2021.

There is an urgent need to spread awareness among the common road users and enforcement officials responsible for implementing these laws and build their capacity for effective implementation of the same. The sole objective of this consultation is to bring all the key enforcement officials at the district level and talk about the opportunities arising from this MVA Act, 2019 and potential challenges, and their local-level solutions. He requested participants to participate in the consultation and provide their valuable comments/suggestions. They can also raise questions about road safety from the panellists.



The chief guest was **Virendra Singh**, Chairman, UBL, Rajakheda, Dholpur. In his address, he spoke about local issues, and challenges road users face due to the lack of effective implementation rules/regulations in Dholpur. He urged traffic police to strictly implement the law and take action against people tripling on the two-wheelers, and he also requested politicians not to save them from penalties. He further added that it had been long since any road safety committee meeting happened in the last few years in Dholpur.

## Technical Session



**Madhu Sudhan Sharma** stated that driving is a dangerous activity, which shall be done with utmost care. He spoke about the road crashes, accidents, and deaths in the last two years and said the Rajasthan stands at seventh place in terms of the country's highest road accidents, deaths, and injuries. Rajasthan is losing more than 10,500 people, among them mostly youths of up to 45 years of age, every year in road accidents. Dholpur alone is losing more than 350 people in road accidents which means almost one person every day. Similarly, around 23,000 people were injured in about 23,480 accidents across the state in 2019. Similarly, in the Dholpur district itself, more than 700 people got injured in 2019.

He urged the participants and dignitaries to analyse reasons for the nasty road accidents and deaths that severely affect the road accident victims and their family members, especially the parents, spouses and children, because of their traumatic and difficult lives. He further said that the families and the state exchequer are affected due to these road accidents, injuries, and death. While referring to a recent World Bank study report on the cost of road accidents, he said that every road accident death costs around 91.16 lakh to the state exchequer because of the productivity loss of the youths due to death, followed by trauma care and other collateral costs. He further added that every significant injury costs around 3.17 lakh to the state GDP, and every accident costs around 77,000 losses to the state GDP. Therefore road accidents, injuries and road death are not good in any sense and we all shall be serious about this.

He mentioned the key behavioural risk factors of road safety and mentioned the five risk factors: excessive speed, not wearing helmets and seatbelts, drunken driving, and child restraint system. Out of these five risk factors, the last one is the newer editions in the MVA Act, 2019, and not using CRS as the car for children is now punishable offence. Drunken driving has been made a severe offence now in the new MVA Act, 2019. Also, there is a provision of imprisonment up to six months along with a fine of Rs. 10,000 if proved to be guilty at the first time and a penalty of Rs. 20,000 on second and subsequent offences.

Sharma also discussed key provisions related to Good Samaritan guidelines, child harness system, golden hour, vulnerable road users and their safety concerns, provisions for Juvenile if driving motor vehicles, trauma care importance and role of first responders etc. He also talked about the child road safety and *Balvahini* guidelines by the supreme court in brief and said that all the children travelling with their parents on two-wheeler shall also wear ISI child helmet if they are above four years of age and

all the school zones and school buses need to comply with the *Balvahini* Guidelines and that shall be monitored by the district road safety officials.

In last he mentioned that the District Road Safety Committee which includes all the district level officials and public representatives (MPs and MLAs) as its member shall function effectively and work in a targeted oriented manner so that the road accidents, injuries and deaths happening in Dholpur district can be reduced gradually. He also requested all the participants to write their suggestions to the district collector or at the state level to Transport Commissioner if they have any related to road safety and try to contribute something to ensure the same and urged all to follow the traffic rules and regulations strictly.

**Munna Lal**, Inspector, RTO, Dholpur, provided a brief overview of the department initiatives and measures taken to strengthen road safety. He also spoke about the history of the Motor Vehicles Act 2019 and the new Amendment Act, 2019. He also informed that Rajasthan Transport Department's name had been changed to Transport and Road Safety Department of Rajasthan. He also talked about the penalties under MVA Act 2019.



**Pradeep Kumar**, Head Constable, Traffic Police, shed light on the department's technology-based initiatives, such as e-challans and various awareness programmes that have been conducted during road safety week to make people aware of the rules and regulations.

**Kapil Dev Pachori**, Engineer, National Highways Authority of India, Dausa, discussed the road design and sanction of the new bypass in Dholpur. He also spoke about the recent initiative of NHAI and emergency services provided by them. He said that most of the accidents occur due to rash and dangerous driving.



**In his address, Ajay Singh Mangala**, Block Pradhan, Dholpur, emphasised wearing seatbelts and helmets and urged people to follow the rules to save lives. Then he talked about the illegal crossings on highways which make road users more vulnerable and cause avoidable road accidents.

### **Vote of Thanks**

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks from Rakesh Parmar. Nearly 45 representatives from various NGOs and government officials attended the consultation. Finally, he expressed gratitude towards the participants for actively participating.